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Combined Rear View Mirror and Map Light

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2 Claims

This invention relates to a combined rear view mirror and map light designed for mounting in the usual central overhead position in the driving compartment of an automobile.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a compact unit of the character indicated above which is designed to replace the usual rear view mirror of an automobile, and which, while serving the usual functions of a rear view mirror, makes available in the driver's compartment, light for nighttime reading of maps and the like, and light for locating and inspecting other objects in a driving compartment.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a practical and efficient device of the character indicated above, which can be made in serviceable and attractive forms, of a variety of materials, at relatively low cost.

Other important objects and advantageous features of the invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein, for purposes of illustration only, a specific form of the invention is set forth in detail.

Figure 1 is a fragmentary rear elevation of the front of an automobile driving compartment, showing an installation in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of said installation, the rear view and lighting device being partly broken away to show structure;

Figure 3 is a vertical longitudinal section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a horizontal section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3; and

Figure 5 is a vertical transverse section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 3.

Referring in detail to the drawings, wherein like numerals designate like parts throughout the several views, the numerals 7 generally designate an automobile driving compartment having an instrument panel 8, a header 9 spaced above the instrument panel, and a windshield 10 extending between the instrument panel 8 and the header 9, in a conventional arrangement.

The windshield 10 usually includes a vertical center strip 11 on an upper part of which is suitably secured, as indicated at 12, a rear view mirror mounting bracket 13, terminating in a swivel joint ball 14 on which is adjustably mounted a conventional rear view mirror structure (not shown).

In accordance with the present invention such conventional rear view mirror structure is replaced on the bracket 13 by a combined rear view mirror and map light unit, such as is generally designated

by the numeral 15 in the drawings.

The unit 15 comprises a preferably metal sheet material housing 16 of horizontally elongated generally rectangular shape, having parallel upper and lower longitudinal walls 17 and 18, respectively, vertical end walls 19 and 20, and a front wall 21. The rear of the housing 16 is open for narrow upper and lower flanges 22 and 23 on the rear edges of the upper and lower walls 17 and 18, respectively.

A combined closure and rear view mirror frame 24 is hinged at one end, preferably its right hand end, to rear edge 25 of the related housing end wall 20, as indicated at 26.

The frame 24 is of the same size and dimensioned as the open rear of the housing 16, the top of the frame 24 and the top wall of the housing 16 preferably being similarly rounded at their ends, as indicated at 27 and 28, respectively.

The frame 24 has relatively narrow top, bottom and end walls 29, 30, 31 and 32, respectively, and extending therearound are front and rear lateral flanges 33 and 34, respectively, which are parallel and spaced from each other to define a channel receiving the edges of a rear view mirror panel 35. On the back of the front flange 33 at the free end of the frame 24 is a headed detent pin 36 arranged to releasably engage a detent 37 mounted on the adjacent end wall 19 of the housing 16 for holding the frame 24 in closed position.

Fixed on an upper central part of the front surface of the housing front wall 21 is a ball socket 38 which receives the mounting bracket ball 14.

The housing bottom wall 18 has therein a relatively large longitudinal rectangular opening 39 which is surrounded at its front side and both ends by a retaining flange 40 which is parallel to and spaced above the bottom wall 18. A rectangular translucent panel 41 fitting the interior of the housing 16 is positioned upon the bottom wall 18 with its front and end edges engaged between the bottom wall 18 and the retaining flange 40 and covers the opening 39.

The translucent panel 41 is preferably of frosted glass or of the character of a filter, in order to direct non-glare light downwardly from the housing 16 into the driving compartment 7, the angle of the housing 16 being capable of being adjusted on the ball joint to direct such light where wanted.

Illuminating means for the interior of the housing 16 preferably comprises an open cylindrical bracket 42 secured horizontally to the rear side of the

housing front wall 21, as indicated at 42', a double-ended insulated lamp socket 43 embraced by the bracket, and lamp bulbs 44 and 45 engaged in the opposite ends of the socket 43.

An insulated dual conductor 46 is severally connected at one end to base contacts 47 and 48 of the socket 43 and at its other end to one side of a switch 49, as indicated at 50. Another insulated conductor 51 has one end connected to the other side of the switch 49, as indicated at 52, and the conductor 51 leads through an opening 33 in the housing front wall 21 to a suitable connection with the ungrounded side of the automobile lighting system (not shown), the other sides of the lamp bulb socket components being suitably grounded.

The switch 49 may be a conventional toggle switch and be mounted through the left hand housing end wall 18. The switch 49 may comprise a threaded body 54 with nuts 55 and 56 thereon tightened against opposite sides of the end wall 18, and with a switch handle 57 projecting from the exposed end of the body 54. The switch handle 57 can be moved to "on" and "off" positions with the housing 16 in any of its angularly adjusted positions for energizing and de-energizing both of the lamp bulbs.

It will be understood that the above described unit 15 can include a complete mounting bracket as a replacement for an existing mounting bracket, or may have only the socket 38 for use with an existing mounting bracket.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. In a combined rear view mirror and map

light, a housing consisting of front and rear walls, top and bottom walls, and end walls, said walls being opaque, a mirror mounted on said rear wall so as to be exposed to view rearwardly of said rear wall, said bottom wall being provided with a light passing opening occupying a major portion of the area of the bottom wall, a translucent panel covering said opening and carried by said bottom wall, and illuminating means within said housing above said bottom wall.

2. In a combined rear view mirror and map light, a housing consisting of front and rear walls, top and bottom walls, and end walls, said walls being opaque, a mirror mounted on said rear wall so as to be exposed to view rearwardly of said rear wall, said bottom wall being provided with a light passing opening occupying a major portion of the area of the bottom wall, a translucent panel covering said opening and carried by said bottom wall, means on the face of said front wall remote from said rear wall for attaching said housing on an automobile rear view mirror bracket, and illuminating means within said housing above said bottom wall.

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FIG. 1

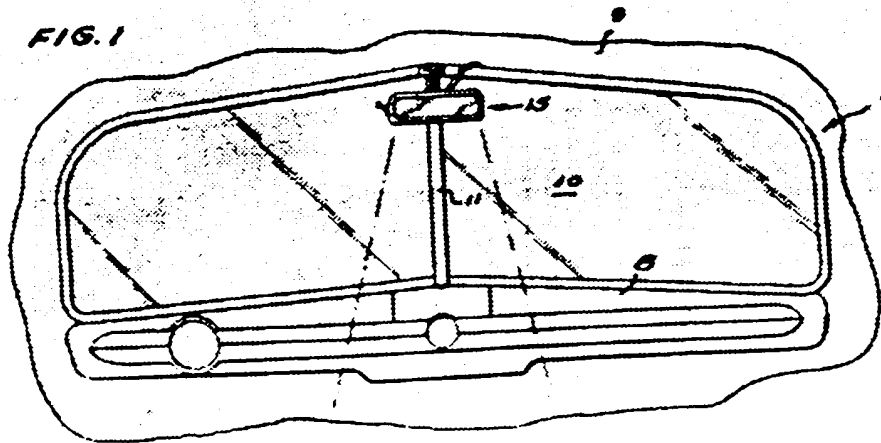
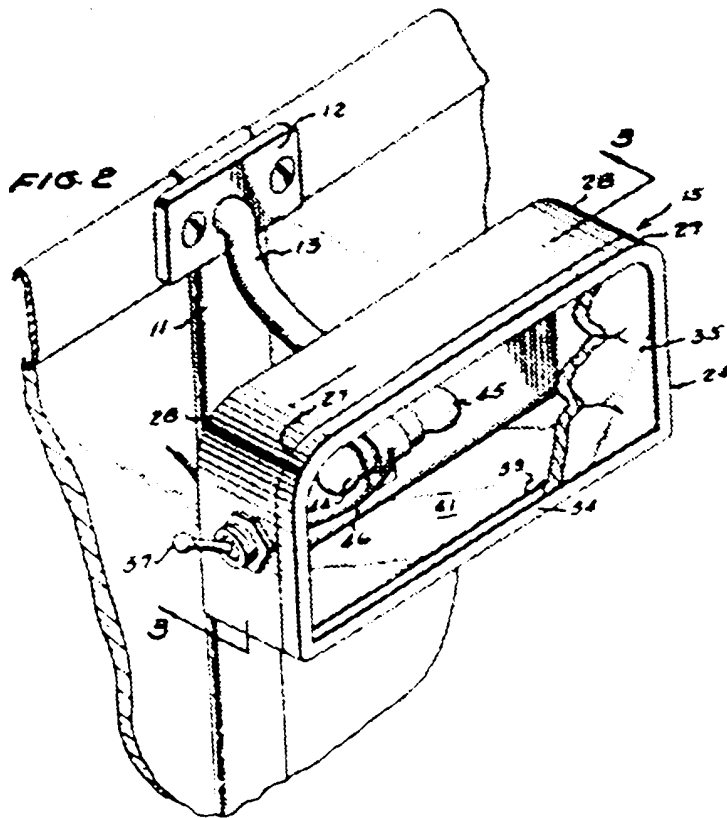


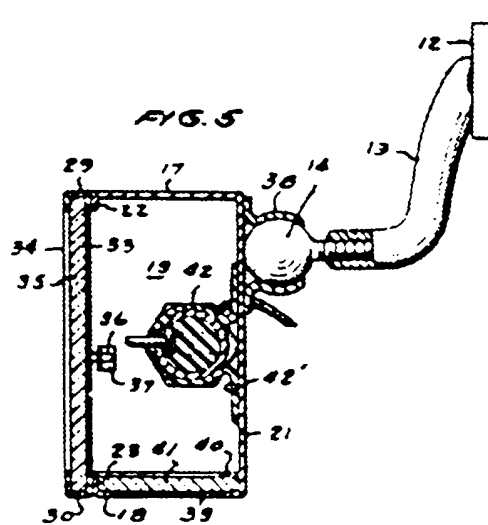
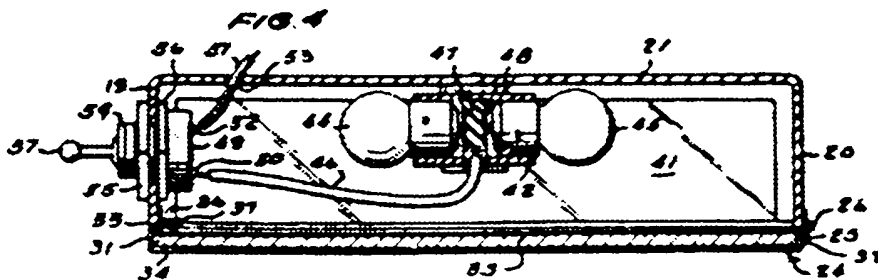
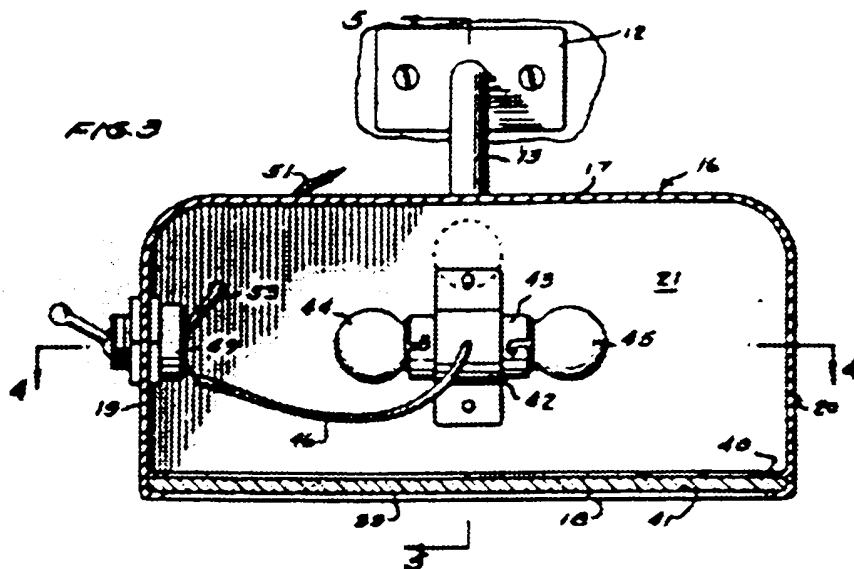
FIG. 2



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